

Message

From: Milbourn, Cathy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=235D8027F05546DBA9897972F0B78419-CMILBOUR]
Sent: 5/9/2022 5:08:16 PM
To: Johnathan Hettinger [jhettinger@investigatemidwest.org]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Center for Mid West/ USA Today- Questions about fipronil
Attachments: Mid West.USA Today Press Inquiry - Fipronil.docx

Hello Johnathan,

I apologize for the delay—attached are answers to your questions on background. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,

Cathy

Good Afternoon,

I'm working on a story for Investigate Midwest/USA Today about fipronil. I am curious about the incident data behind the Human Health Risk Assessment, as it seems like it is a vast under count.

According to the Human Health Risk Assessment (attached), there were 210 human health incidents reported across all three databases the EPA looked at.

This contrasts with what I found based on EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation documents.

- According to the aggregate IDS, there have been more than 5,000 human incidents reported with three fipronil products alone: Frontline Plus for Dogs, Frontline Plus for Cats and Fipaira for Dogs.

This total makes fipronil the product with the second-most human incidents behind bleach.

- In the one-year dataset I recently received for 2020-2021, there were 180 incidents associated with the two frontline Spot-ons.

- According to the main IDS, there were at least 717 human incidents reported with fipronil from Jan. 1, 2010 to May 2021. There were also at least 1,427 human incidents reported with fipronil from Jan. 1, 2000, to Dec. 31, 2009. This includes two deaths (which the Human Health Risk Assessment makes no mention of).

- A recent California Department of Pesticide Regulation (also attached) found that there were more than 5,700 incidents associated with fipronil, including 1,000 from 2016 to 2020.

I am confused about why the numbers are so low, and was wondering if someone can help me understand this. It seems that the EPA Human Health Risk Assessment is just wrong on incident numbers. Is that correct?

I am also curious about the March 31, 2021, PowerPoint where the EPA expressed concerns about regulating Seresto and that moving consumers toward products like Frontline which have human health risks. If there are concerns about fipronil, why is the EPA not taking action?

The EPA said it would be making a registration decision on fipronil in the Second Quarter of 2022, so I was wondering if that will be made soon.

My deadline is this Friday, May 6.

Thanks,
Johnathan Hettinger
217-493-9791